

SEMI-WEEKLY MAUI NEWS

"FOR THE VALLEY ISLE FIRST"

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JOSEPH H. GRAY : : : : EDITOR

TUESDAY : : : : JULY 18, 1922

COUNTY COMMITTEES NEEDED

Wisdom of the proposal of the Republican Territorial central committee to abolish county committees to be presented at the Republican convention today is open to question. It is proposed that county as well as legislative and delegate to congress campaigns should be handled in the counties by the counties' delegations to the central committee.

In all of the counties the party organization has been perfected by electing to the county committee members from the various precincts. In each precinct there is one or more men who are responsible for seeing that the voters are registered and that they get to the polls to cast their suffrages. Experience everywhere in political elections shows the necessity of having such workers at every polling place. The proposed change would disrupt the present organization which, on Maui at least, is working well. It would place the responsibilities for the carrying of the elections in the hands of a few men who, in the County of Maui, would have a much greater territory under their supervision than they could well look after.

Aside from the political wisdom or unwisdom of the proposal it is open to objection as being contrary to the idea of county self government. In legislative and governmental affairs there is the tendency to take away from the counties powers that should be their's. The proposal means the carrying of that idea into Republican party affairs. The criticism is advanced that it would put party affairs in the hands of a small "political oligarchy," too.

Attempted political innovations have not worked out well elsewhere nor have they worked out when copied here in the view of many. There are not a few who feel that the old convention days were far and away preferable to the direct primary system. Under those circumstances the party may well hesitate before going to such an extreme as abolishing county committees.

If further arguments are needed one is to be found in the methods of the Territorial committee which publishes notices and calls only in the Honolulu newspapers, ignoring the fact that a majority of the Republican voters reside in the other counties.

IMPORTANT STRAW ELECTION

In its issue of July 8 The Literary Digest announces that it will make a genuinely national test of the sentiment as to prohibition and the soldiers' bonus proposal, that such a poll is now actually underway. Those who remember the accuracy with which the poll made by that publication in advance of the last presidential election two years ago showed political sentiment will feel a keener interest in the new "straw vote." The first tabulation is to appear in the issue of July 15 and it will be continued weekly until the final returns are in.

Ten million ballots are being distributed by Literary Digest, it says, to all classes of voters in all the states and communities of the nation. Millions are sent out by mail, one in each envelope and other millions are distributed through the great industrial plants. An unhampered and unbiased count and report of the result of the vote is assured.

As to the ballot on prohibition there is a sufficiently wide scope for views given to make sentiment clear, three expressions being presented but as to the soldiers' bonus the result will not be so indicative for it is only "yes" or "no" that can be answered and there are many who, like President Harding, favor a soldiers' bonus but want proper provision for raising of funds first and do not approve of the project as it now stands in congress.

On prohibition the voter is asked "Do you favor the continuance and strict enforcement of the Eighteenth Amendment and the Volstead Law?" "Do you favor a modification of the Volstead Law to permit light wines and beers?" "Do you favor the repeal of the Prohibition Amendment?"

As a forecast this paper will predict that a preponderant number of votes will be for continuance and enforcement of the amendment. This view is the result of observation of resubmissions of constitutional amendments and laws in various states of the Union. There are many men who formerly enjoyed the use of alcoholic liquors, some of whom still want it for themselves, who believe that in a generation or two the results will be such that their own self denial now will be warranted. The writer has seen a mining community vote wet and when the dry amendment was passed vote dry by the same majority for a stronger constitutional prohibition.

It may or may not be an indication of the result when it is reported that the Manufacturers Record took a poll of 1500 persons "in various fields of activity and 85½ percent favored continuing prohibition.

No matter how Literary Digest's poll may go, it will have a tendency to clarify the atmosphere and the magazine is to be commended in its undertaking.

HARDING UNAFRAID

From time to time President Harding is giving indication of a strong sense of personal fearlessness and a willingness to bear on his own shoulders responsibilities that he might, if he would, shift on the party. The most recent indication is seen in the reports of his response to criticism of his proposals for settlement of the coal strike and for keeping the mails moving in the railroad strike. In regard to "commandeering" labor to keep the mails moving he is quoted as having said that the worst that could happen, if he should pass what the law might interpret as his rights and powers would be to impeach him.

It is such an attitude as Harding takes that wakens admiration no matter what may be the views of his opponents. The country has small use for the political opportunist, the man who places his own possibilities of future success over what he considers right and wrong. Should Harding commandeer labor to move the mails he would arouse bitter enmity from the more radical laborites but in the public generally there would be awakened a strong admiration.

The President on previous occasions has been decidedly outspoken on the subject of Soldiers' Bonus legislation and has indicated that he wants satisfactory ways and means of meeting payments

THE OPTIMISTIC PESSIMIST

When the wise wife really wants anything she brings her husband to suggest it, presents all possible objections and gracefully "yields to his wishes." Thus she has her own way and he thinks he is having his way.

Nearly every man likes to be "mothered" by his wife sometimes but kicks hard at attempts to "mother" him all the time.

Tires are essential to smooth going of the motor car but tires in the matrimonial car are the most prolific cause of smashups.

Many a man who tells a girl she is too good for him when seeking her for a bride wears of having the fact told him as the days of matrimony drag along.

It is only a few years ago some men thought they were lucky when they found a horse shoe but today everyman knows it's good luck to find a tire. The world moves differently now from formerly.

One cannot expect to get pleasant smiles in return for grouchy looks.

There is a reservation attached to the assertion of men who say they run things in their own house. They mean they run some things. Wife treats them like a camera, she presses the button and they do the rest.

Getting pickled is not the best way to preserve love and respect.

No matter how well satisfied one is with his environment he always wants change—in his pocket.

Tennis can hardly lose popularity since it doubles so often and love enters into its scoring. Every game starts with love all.

One never knows what one can do until a really hard job is tackled. Looking for easy things to do checks mental and moral growth.

Modern definition: An Oasis is an American Shipping Board Vessel three miles out in the ocean.

devised in advance. There are those who believe he is opposed to some of the provisions in the pending measure, especially those that throw a great burden on the banks and that he will veto it if it passes, that is permit his party to redeem its promise of passing the legislation and take on himself the onus of its failure to become a law through to. That is only a surmise, but there is a strong belief that Harding is a big enough man to place his obligations high above his own political interests if the necessity arise.

In favor of the proposed ten years school building program it may be urged that the plan would give the Honolulu officials the time they seem to require to secure a site for the proposed new school building at Lahaina.

The ordinance to keep children from playing and loitering on public highways has been passed. It should be enforced at least as strictly as has been the traffic ordinance since passage of the latter. All Maui motorists are delighted at the elimination of glaring headlights that has resulted from the latter county law and no longer does one ever see a car turned in the middle of the blocks between Market and High streets on Main. The traffic ordinance is surely a joy forever.

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